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Congressman Akin Supports President Bush's Veto of SCHIP
Bill does not require proof of citizenship

Washington, DC- Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee, has stated he will vote to uphold President Bush's veto of the SCHIP bill.

"Even with the best of intentions, Congress must be careful not to create more government than we can afford," said Akin. "Although the SCHIP bill is being promoted as insurance for poor children, the bill will provide insurance for children of parents making up to 300 percent the poverty level and would include families making up to \$62,000 a year."

The bill also does not require proof of citizenship for recipients of the health care benefits.

"I am very concerned that proof of citizenship is not required for eligibility. If we are going to greatly expand an entitlement paid for by US taxpayers it is only right that the recipients of that benefit be legal citizens," said Akin.

Akin also expressed concern that by using federal funds to insure middle class children that middle class families will become pressured into enrolling their children into the public health care system. "If Congress continues to weaken the private health care system, more and more middle class families will be entering a public health care system," said Akin. "By overreaching with the SCHIP program, Congress will be moving us further down the slippery slope to socialized medicine."